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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Route 1 Box 24,
 Pass Christian, Miss.,
 28 October 1958

Mr. Donald Stryker,
 Langlois, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Stryker:

Yes, I do remember you as well as that meeting, where we went about mostly in stupid circles!

I do feel for you in your losses while you were abroad, and know that labor is really a problem everywhere. It is here. The local negro has no interest in the sort of thing that needs doing, so I continue to labor in my "old age" which is looked upon with shouts of laughter by most of the local gentry! I too am single and there would be no one to leave this place to; and since my own beloved garden in Takoma Park was sold, to be wrecked and covered with "ranch type" houses, and no attention paid to any of the rare things I had on it, I know again something of how you must feel.

This also makes a point about my getting anything. Apparently I shall continue to live for some years, since I come of tough stock and long-lived, but when I buy any plants I have an argument with myself, about the wisdom of each purchase. I do not always yield to my persuasive inner man.

There is a story that I recall, imperfectly of course, about George Bernard Shaw, who said that when he went to Heaven he was certain that he would be greeting all the thousands of animals and fowls that he had NOT eaten. To turn it about, I am confident that when I arrive in Hell, I shall be confronted by the myriads of plants that I have killed. So, while I shall list the things that inflamed my interest when I read them in Plant Buyers Guide, under NO circumstances pay the slightest attention to anything that you consider problematical or too precious to risk. I shall understand completely and agree with you. Your collection is too precious and it is wonderful to know that it is in this country!

Our climate. We too are close to the ocean, really the inner Gulf, and there is always ample humidity. The summer temperatures are high, often in the 90s, but rarely more than that and there is always a good air stirring, not blowing a gale. The winter lows rarely go below 20, and that is really the exception rather than the rule. The real trouble comes when there are too many ups and downs between December and March, usually though we can count of January as cold.

Magnolias of all the groups save the stellata-Kobus group do well. But, I do not know the limits of the more southern kinds, though I have a plant of Campbelli that looks as if it would make it (long after my death for blooming) and Veitchi is fine. All the Soulangeana tribe and its hybrids, seedlings and bastards, and denudata are perfect. Delavayi is the only evergreen that I have lost. Sieboldi and Wilsoni died, but came to me as layered plants with imperfect root systems and I was not on the job to fuss with them. Mollicomata I had as small seedlings and once again, I was not here to attend them, so that they had no protection and having grown late into the autumn were particularly vulnerable.

Camellias do well. Of species I have only oleifera which seeds like mad, saluenensis, fraterna, and this autumn a small plant of reticulata and of saluenensis once more. All camellias have to come into Mississippi with bare roots, which means that I have gotten only small plants from

2-

the Pacific Coast, pot them and keep them in my cold greenhouse over winter, and longer if need be until they can go out. No losses so far!

Now after all the pros and cons, have been stated, I am going to append the list of the names of Camellia and Magnolias that made me sit up with joy and you need not pay the slightest attention to any of it if in your opinion it should be sure death!

prefer

Also, I should much/to pay for them, please. Plants cost money and labor and maintenance come high. I know! Also, aside from the fact that the plants will be cherished, I must admit that while we have many visitors here(I have overrun a place which is owned by a bachelor friend of mine who no longer gardens much), very,very few of them are horticulturally alert. The nurseries of this whole area, grow only standard stuff and sell most of it to the NORTH! Now that old man Sawada of Overlook, has retired and his modern trained sons are "streamlining" the place, that nursery which was my one Mecca is scarcely worth a trip!

To sum up: Morrison is old, has no future plan for the place, has indifferent visitors, lives in a climate that has high summer temperatures but good air drainage, and occasional, very occasional frosts in winter. It looks to me as if you should reply----- NO! Nothing from here.

Cordially and with admiration for your successes,

B. Y. Morrison

Digitized by Herbarium Institute for Botanical Documentation

- Camellia cuspidata
- pitardi yunnanica
- salicifolia
- taliensis
- Williamsii

- Magnolia dawsoniana
- Grandiflora Goliath
- " lanceolata
- Highdownensis
- Loebneri
- Mollicomata
- nitida
- obovata
- proctoriana
- rostrata
- sargentiana robusta
- Sieboldi
- sinensis
- soulangeana Brozzoni
- Sprengeri-Diva
- Thompsoniana
- Watsoni
- Wilsoni

from Stryker

Langlois, Oregon
24 October, 1958

Mr. B. Y. Morrison
Route 1, Box 24,
Pass Christian, Mississippi.

Dear Mr. Morrison:

Thank you for your letter of 5th July! I was in Europe at the time and have only just got around to answering letters I found on my return.

You undoubtedly do not remember me. I met you in New York during the early days of the American Lily Society.

Now, about Magnolias. I missed seeing them when in England, though I stayed with Col. George H. Johnstone at Trewithen in Cornwall for several days and also visited Mr. and Mrs. Julian Williams at Carhays Castle. So many of my Magnolias have come from one or the other of these two gardens.

When I left here I had a man to look after things! He did not stay long and fortunately my friend who owns this place with me came home and found another fellow to at least partly water things. Unfortunately on my arrival I did not find water, and the plants were very dead plants, and as usual in such instances they were the better ones! I am in the process of getting out a small catalog, this will be sent you as soon as it is finished. In the meantime if there is any particular thing you are interested in, I will be more than happy to quote you. As a matter of fact, I will be most happy to send many of the things here to you for trial at no charge other than shipping costs. I have so many things that people just do not know that it will be very good to have them in places where they can be seen and known.

At this point, I am getting ready all of the better forms of *Lapageria rosea* that I have here, so that I will have good flowers, to ship to one of the fortnightly shows of the R.H.S. in London. Both Mr. Simmonds and Mr. Sänge are quite interested in them.

My collection of plants here was originally mainly a hobby, now I find it might have to bring in enough money to keep the collection growing and together. I am single and have no one to leave the place to, so I must have it in good shape and with a really fine collection of plants to make it acceptable to the University here as either a test garden, a botanic garden or both. I hate to sell plants, and at present I am breeding Camellias. I have probably next to Mr. Ralph Keer the finest collection of species that exists. Now I am also building up the collection of varieties of *C. japonica*. I have a hundred acres of woodland with several streams, am practically on the sea...just a mile and a half from the Pacific Ocean and highway 101 runs right along one side of the property.

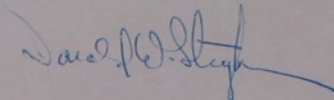
All I know of your area is that you do have terrific fluctuations in temperature, this is not too good for many of the things I grow. Here it is never hot and never really cold. If it does get cold we have had no warm weather so things are hardened off and stand it. Then like Cornwall, I am close to the sea and on a hill and can make sheltered spots where frost just does not stand.

I would like to send you a plant of *Michelia doltsopa*, to try. It is such a very fine thing and not known at all in this country. It will not be hardy in too many places however.

The Magnolis are not in very great supply, that is many of the varieties I have only a very few or in some instances one. These I can propagate from but being all alone I just do not have time to propagate everything, excepting on order. I try to keep a few of most all of the plants however in containers so that they can be sold at any time.

Please send me a list of some of the things you are interested in.

Very sincerely,



Donald W. Stryker

from Stryker

Langlois, Oregon
7 December, 1958

Dear Mr. Morrison:

Will I ever get caught up, even if only with mail? I have a onetime partner who is going to come home after the first of the year...the mail is his problem! I am also getting one of the very finest young men from Germany to do propagating and growing but he will not finish his course at the Gartenbauschule, in Stuttgart-Hohenheim until August. Then he will be I feel one of the best trained chaps in this country. He has been at it now for ten years and will be just 23 when he comes here. I am indeed fortunate, but then so is he! So, by this time next year we should be well on the way to having this place run properly, for a change!

As to your wants, I think I can supply most of them but not all at this time, if you did not make a copy of your letter, I can supply now the following Camellias:

<i>C. cuspidata</i> (small with buds)	3.50	} 11.50
<i>C. salicifolia</i>	4.00	
<i>C. taliensis</i> (small with buds)	4.00	
<i>C. pitardii</i> var <i>yunnanica</i> , will have this in summer.		

but what *C. williamsii* do you want? Hiraethlyn? Donation? J. C. Williams (the finest) it flowers here for six to eight months! is in full flower now. I have sold out all of the rest for this season but will have grafts of Elizabeth Rothschild; Mary Christian; St Ewe; Barbara Hillier; Mr. Michaels Bartley Pink. I think you should also try the hybrid given to me by Elizabeth Williams. I have the only one and he has given permission to sell this) I have small grafts at 5.00

5.00

On the Magnolias, I still do not have them all segregated properly but the following I know are ready:

<i>M. grandiflora</i>only <i>angustifolia</i>	3.50	} 27.00
<i>M. highdownensis</i>	3.50	
<i>mollicomata</i>	5.00	
<i>sieboldii</i>	3.00	
<i>sinensis</i>	3.50	
<i>watsonii</i>	5.00	
<i>Wilsonii</i>	3.50	

As I said, there may be others and I will check and let you know. I have some other things I would like to have you try down there. And! What about some of the things that grow there? I had a friend in Ocean Springs who sent me great bunches of STEWARTIA MALACODENDRON blossoms! I have only two quite small plants and I have never been able to get *S. grandiflora ovata*! The only *Stewartia* I lack!

I gave my large plant of *Magnolia nitida* to the Arboretum in Golden Gate Park, they are trying to propagate it for me and if successful I shall send you one. I think I shall wait for Carl (my German), before attempting to propagate Magnolias in any quantity but I shall try for all of the ones you asked about and there may be one or two of them already down in the nursery. I want also to send you a plant of MICHELIA DOLTSOPA I saw it in flower in Cornwall and it is lovely! My big tree of it which should have flowered this coming year died this summer...I suspect Cinnamomm???? a fungus disease that is killing all of the *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* in the area.

Gerd Krussmann, Director of the Botanical Gardens, Dortmund, Germany, put me up for a membership in the International Dendrology Union, so now I hope I may be able to crack some of the sources for plants in, especially Chili. The tour for next year is dire and if I can possibly do it I shall. However I have been stewing in a horrible financial mixup and fear it is going to leave me quite flat! I still will have my plants and my garden however and that is really all I ask, along with some books and some music.

If I find that there are other things that you asked about I will let you know.

I have managed to root and grow about thirty plants of ERICA PAGEANA and can hardly wait to have them flower so I can send one to a friend, age 92! who still works in his garden, and who has tried to get one of these plants for over twenty years! This I must take to him personally, so I can see his eyes when he first looks on it. Last I heard he was feeling very fine! That is what the love of plants and gardens does for one!

Very sincerely,

Donald W. Stryker

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Next morning.....on checking I find there is one quite nice *M. demodata* var PICTURE from Wada in Japan. I had several of these and the one planted out here is really a fine thing it is NOT however a form of *M. demodata*, of this I am sure! It is quite definitely a new *M. X. scoulangiana*. There is one bud on this plant, the grafts he made were not too good but this plant came to me from Japan at least six years ago so I feel certain it is O.K. I have been getting 12.50 for these.

DWS.

11.50
5.00
27.00
12.50
56.00

Route 1 Box 24,
Pass Christian, Mississippi,
19 December 1958

Dear Mr. Stryker:

Thank you for your air mail letter of December 7th that has been unanswered too long. I apologize.

I have this morning verified the fact that all camellias from the Pacific Coast have to come in bare root and may carry no bud that shows color. If this is too great an insult to your nice speedees I can understand. I have had imports from the Coast twice and have lost only one plant, one shipment came with the roots in Vermiculite and the other in sphagnum, each in polyethylene bags carefully placed in the container so there was no shifting. I pot carefully and keep in the cold greenhouse the first winter.

The magnolia prospect enchants me.

BUT I am not sure about the *Michelia doltsopa*. We are now in a cool week here and have had two nights at 28 and the others in the low 30s. Of course all open bloom is ruined except the few flowers that hang under foliage.

For the present, let us skip *Camellia williamsi* as I honestly do not know which one I want! Or might want! Donation can be had in the East so we can skip that one, and I'll look through the catalogues and see, as there is no use in punishing any plant needlessly.

Stewartia malacodendron was not good in these parts, these immediate parts, and the few plants that I bought last autumn in behalf of a friend, from a collector in Perkiston, a small town north of here, were horrors, and have made only a slow comeback. I'll see what I can find out at Ocean Springs, but I know few people there. The only local references I have heard of were from Fair Hope Alabama, and from mere acquaintances.

I inclose my check for fifty six dollars (\$56.00) but do me a favor please and see to it that my arithmetic is correct. I am notoriously poor in addition. And don't forget to bill me packing charges. Ship, you convenience RR Express Collect. I have no idea how long the trip may be, but tell you to add to your sorrows, that our station is closed from Friday afternoon to Monday mornings! You do the guessing, and of course the shipment will cross the Mountains and the cold!

I am most grateful to you for your willingness to be bothered.

My sympathy for you in any financial matter. I have had my troubles this summer with the same sort, but in my case, with "dear friends".... Luck to you and I hope your German is not using you, just to get here and to leave you after arrival in a year or so. Many do!

Have a fine Christmas season.

Sincerely,

R. Y. Morrison

ms:check.

B. Y. Morrison
 Rt. 1 Box 24
 Pass Christian, Miss.

(the express office will phone me)

1	Camellia	cuspidata	3.50
1	"	salicifolia	4.00
1	"	taliensis	4.00
1-Magnolia			
1	Camellia	ret. Eliz. Johnstone	5.00
1	Magnolia	grand. angustifolia	3.50
1	"	highdownensis	3.50
1	"	mollicomata	5.00
1	"	sieboldi	3.00
1	"	sinensis	3.50
1	"	watsoni	5.00
1	"	wilsoni	3.50
1	"	denudata Picture	12.50
			<u>88.00</u>

Langlois, Oregon
20 January, 1959

Mr. B. Y. Morrison
Rt 1, Box - 24,
Pass Christian, Mississippi.

Dear Mr. Morrison:

Have been away, and when here swamped with things that must get done..but I do not think that it will hurt your plants to wait a bit. I will have them off however by the end of this week.

I am afraid however that I was wrong in saying I had a plant extra of *Magnolia grandiflora* var. *angustifolia*. I see now that there is only one and the one that I had thought it, is a seedling. The leaves are almost identical but my other plant is from Kew and so I know the right one. I graft all of these clones to be certain. So, either I return to you three dollars and fifty cents (\$3.50) or send you something in it's place. I wish I had grafted more of the *Camellia Cornish Snow*, var. WINTON I'd send that as it is really a delightful thing and flowering here for first time this year.

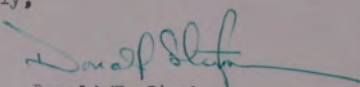
I would love to have you drop in here about now! My camellias are simply superb. I am not a methodical person and I have no rhyme or reason for where I have plants, excepting for the idea of where the plant will do well...which reminds me of one of my customers, a very old lady years to be exact when this was said...He had told me he thought he was a good gardener, and turned to his wife and asked her what she thought about it...She said, "I'll tell you Peter, if you would only plant the plants, where they'd like to grow, instead of planting them where you want them to grow, I'd say, yes, you were a very good gardener." He is gone now, and with him the very last of the really superb estates in Portland. It has however been given to the Episcopal Church and might be kept up.

I have just checked your letter and note that Camellias must come to you bare-root! I will not take quite all of the soil off and will pack in damp sphagnum moss. I send plants to England all of the time this way and have very fine success.

The *Magnolia watsoni*, might look terrible to you. These plants came from Wada some time ago and were not what I considered good, though the ones planted out here have come into very fine shape so now I do not feel so badly about sending them out. From here on though we shall do our own grafting and growing. I have very great confidence in my young German. He graduates from the 'Gartenbauschule' in Stuttgart-Hohenheim, the first of August and after a couple weeks with his family, he will go to England to do some things for me and then directly here. He is certainly well trained and will get a degree, Dr. of Horticulture when he finishes. I hope to have two other chaps here by the time he gets here and we shall really get going.

Now to get this off to you! Thanks for the order and I do hope that the plants all arrive in good condition.

Very sincerely,


Donald W. Stryker

Langlois, Oregon
17 February, 1959

Dear Mr. Morrison:

Another fiasco! I was called to California and left shortly after writing to you, shipping tags all made out and a man here to do the work! I had been gone only a short time when he got word his wife's mother had passed away and hetoo left! Your plants are right where they were when I left here!

We are having a frightful storm and I shall not pack them and start them out until it is over. I assure you I shall not notify you until they are on their way this time.

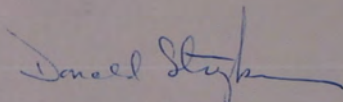
Actually it is probably just as well as from what I hear the entire country is having cold and bad weather. Here at least it is warm but wind and rain in overdose wuantities.

I was pleased to hear that one of my Camellia hybrids, not named, which I sent to a friend in Texas to show, tells me that all judges who have seen it say it is the finest hybrid they have yet seen. Even much better than DONATION! Which has been sort of the standard. Personall I feel I have far better here that are as yet unseea by anyone but me. That is the main curse of living so far from things.

Here magnolias are starting to flower and the wind is shredding them. Many of them though will hold off for a couple weeks.

I hope to get the plants started before the end of the week so there will definitely be no week-end hold over anyplace along the line. Will advise when they leave.

Sincerely,



Donald W. Stryker

Langlois, Oregon
9th March, 1959

Dear Mr. Merrisox:

The plants went off on Saturday, in two packages, via parcels post. I tried to keep an eye on the man who was packing them and probably should have done it myself....The two Magnelias in one long box are really the only ones I worry about. Please let me know how they arrive.

I shall have some other things that I think you should have ready and will send them off in a week or two.

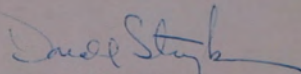
I am this morning in a terrible rush to leave for Portland, where I shall pick up some Camellia understocks.

We have been having magnificent weather and I've been up to my neck in the garden. Today it is pouring rain and I do hate to drive in bad weather.

I shall write again when I have heard from you.

Very sincerely,

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation


Donald W. Stryker

002 March 12 -

Camellia cuspidata

salicifolia

tatimensis

ret. Eloy Johnston

Magnolia salami

mollicornata

chinkense

Sieboldii

from Morrison

Route 1 Box 24,
Pass Christian, Miss.,
17 March 1959

Dear Stryker:

I answer to Ben or BY which ever pleases your ear best!

Man, how I feel for you; all through my official life in which I had to promote the USDA program and at the same time agonize over what could and did happen.

This morning I have your air mail letter of Saturday and a wire from Western Union that reads: Keep all plants reshipping ~~the~~ camellia order to Tyler. All the plants from both boxes that I received are in pot except the plants of Magnolia Wilsoni and M. Sieboldi. I could easily send them on to Tyler? But in the light of your present wire, the thing I should most like from you is a BILL. Now don't be stuffy please, and let me pay for them all. I am not being stuffy about this for I love plants and my only qualms about any new thing now is my age! Now, will I live to see them but what will happen when I am gone.

Now about Meyer. I probably met him years ago when he was at Missouri Botanical Garden, but I do not have even the dimmest recollection. He wrote me, as he did you, before the trip, but the question he put to me was, "I understand that you made out a list of plants in Europe that should be brought over and the sources, please let me have it." I am as positive as any human can be that I never made any such list, and told him that I had no recollection. I did give him a few addresses and of course never had any word from him then or since.

As you can see, I am nasty about people who do not answer correspondence that they started. In fact I am constantly astonished about the attitude of people who "want things" and expect the other man to do it all!

I had heard word of the clipping of cuttings right and left and everywhere but very indirectly. I know many of the British people and have had the most generous help and cooperation from them all, so that they have a special place in my affections. It grieves me that they should have been subjected to any of the Meyer business. Who picked him, I do not know, but if I were to hazard a guess, it might have been, note that might have been Seibold at Longwood, who was formerly a Missouri?

Now as to what he took, I have no idea what his instructions were or could have been. If he made any effort or not to learn what could be had in this country, but I am told that there are quantities of things going over there from PL. collections and can only hope that something of value will be found among them.

Now for the practical question about how to bring your name to the attention of the proper people. Let me think that over, and I am fairly certain that I can handle it with USDA. My connections with Longwood are not close at all. I know Hodge slightly and met Seibold years ago, although I feel that I know his father-in-law Pring rather well, as I had most of this then new tropical water lilies in my garden for a run of pictures and notes that eventually went into the NHM which has been on my neck, it seems to me, an eternity. (And there too I have trouble with people who would rather have papers about petunias and zinnias than rare plants.)

Actually the best plants that have come in through USDA have been cherished in private places, and frequently never get into commerce, so the British attitude not necessarily need worry one too much. Of course they like to preserve their best individuals, but on the world level, that attitude will have to change too in time, just as the British Empire has had to alter.

We may not like any of it, but,,,,,

One has to recognize the fact also, that collections of importance always "leak".... Judd, the propagator at Arnold Arboretum gave me some azaleas which he intended for me personally, but as the law says an employee cannot accept gifts, I turned them in to P.I. They grew well enough and I had some propagations made to put in the National Arboretum, and some for my own garden. Later I found that propagations had slipped out to various people. Actually I did not mind except that it was not orthodox. So in time, even if the best things went to Longwood for permanent display, there would be a back door....

If I come up with an inspiration, I'll let you have a carbon of whatever I write, so you won't be taken by surprise, another thing that I hate, should anything come of it. My relations to the USDA are all amicable but I have leaned over backwards to prevent any ones ever being able to say, "Why in God's name doesn't that old man mind his own business and stay retired!"

If you do ever get this way we will be delighted to have you come and stay. The household is all bachelor, the property belongs to Anderson a ~~friend~~ friend of over thirty years, and I have overrun it. He had a nursery up north for perennials and rock plants, but now does not do much; and our small dachshund makes up the party. The house is small designed for minimum housekeeping, had NO architectural charm, but the gardens are "not bad" and we can guarantee good food as we each like to cook! So the latch string is out!

Sincerely,

B. Y. Morrison

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

17.3.59 Langlois

Dear Mr. Morrison:

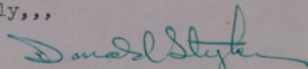
Well! Certainly the entire deal was crazy....neither the postmaster here or I can figure it all out excepting that she says I made the labels and she put them on the boxes!

Had I known you were interested in some of those plants I would have sent finer ones! The *C. hongkongensis* for instance was actually a scrubby one! But as per my wire, keep them if you want them and I'll re-ship to Dark in Texas....

I am sorry but at this point I have to be most brief....it is nearly mail time and I must get several other letters off and I've some people wandering about the garden which I do not particularly like, so I dash out now and then.

I will go over the plant list and send you a statement in a few days. I repeat, I am only sorry I did not put in better plants!

Very sincerely,,,


Donald W. Stryker

Route 1 Box 24,
Pass Christian, Miss.,
20 March 1959

Dear Mr. Stryker:

Your latest of March 3rd no March 17th is here!

I shall be happy to keep that plants that came here that should have gone to Tyler Texas, IF you will send me the bill! Do not worry about them, as I am sure each one will grow.

My only worry, is that I do not have anything that went to Tyler that I really covet. I admit the word. The Wada magnolia, the big one, and didn't you intend sending me Magnolia Watsoni???? I do want it some time or other, and of course as an "elderly gent" the sooner the better!

The garden is lovely in bloom. There are too many visitors. And what I dislike more than anything else, too many people who write that they would like to come about such and such a time, and would it be all right. You answer that it would and then you hang about and you get neither message or visitor.....

The garden is almost clean of weeds of the type that visitors would see, and there are enough things in flower so it all makes a show. The weather man for this evening who will not come back till Monday on TV, is reported to have said that we would get some thunder storms to-night or to-morrow, then colder weather with a chance of frost on Sunday morning. That would just about "fix things" as what is not in flower is more or less on the way, except the really late things that come in May, but in the nursery there is fine new growth of recent emergence on nearly everything.... just too, too wonderful! But this is the gardener's fate I suppose.

Now, if the man in Tyler, Texas, has the only plants of the Wada magnolia and M. Watsoni, and IF he is not particularly interested in them, please tell him to ship to me by express collect, starting them so that they could not possibly arrive here on a Friday. It should take only three days from Tyler here.

I am truly sorry that I and my trifling order should have become a bugbear to you at this busy time.

Sincerely,

E. Y. Morrison

I shall be most pleased to accept
Cavellian seeds from *C. fraternum* & also any
other seed of Cavellian - I'm always short of
underbuds for grafting seeds

from Stryker

Langlois, Oregon
21st March, 1959

Dear Ben,

How's that? And everyone including children of pre-school age here calls me Don!

I certainly did get that last lot of plants all mixed up! I do not have another decent *C. fraternum*, so will you please, since you have one already send the spare up to Bob Dark, in Tyler? Please? I am reshipping him everything else and one of these days I shall also send to you a few other things that you should have.... I'll not tell you what and for them there just WILL BE NO BELL! On these others the *C. caudata* and the Toklai #251 are seedlings obtained from the Toklai Experimental Station of the East India Tea Corporation. The seed were sent to me to distribute the plants...so you have a couple! I did not have much luck with the other seed. #7 produced but one plant, it flowered and is rather nice... I feel that most of them are forms of *C. sinensis*. I did also get one plant of *C. kissi* from the lot and this too flowered this past year. Beautiful foliage but the flowers are the smallest I believe of the entire genus! The other plants are as follows:

<i>C. williamsii</i> DONATION	-----3.50
<i>C. salicifolia</i>	5.00
<i>C/ hongkongensis</i>	3.50

17.00

If I were you I'd pot up the hongkongensis in rather good leafsoil and give it a good shot of some fertilizer! It is merely started! You will love the new foliage, on some plants here leaves are nine inches long and of the most lovely gun metal blue green(?) and then turning to other fine shades before getting green. I am very fond of it.

A letter today from B. Dark saying he had sent on to you the two Magnolias and I certainly hope that they have not suffered from the extra journey! He says he gave them a shot of B1 both before potting and before re-shipping...I'd set them both in the ground and give them lots of leafsoil...I repeat that the *M. watsoni* is a bad looking plant but it will, I think come out of it...I know the ones I planted in the ground here are fine big plants now and all have buds. It is one of my very favorite Magnolias. The so called *M. denudata* 'Picture' of Wada, is to my way of thinking a form of *M. soulangeana*, it does have enormous flowers and this year we have had perfect weather for them to develop so my plants are lovely! Some of my own seedling *M. soulangeana*, *M. X Alexandrina* and *M. X Brozzoni*, along with *M. denudata* in two forms, one with a purple eye (this from Veitch), *M. liliiflora* and *liliflora nigra* and another *liliflora* form, *M. salicifolia* and *salicifolia concolor*, *M. X Loebneri* and *roctoriana* and a few others are simply lovely here now but it rained today and if it continues, we have had it for this spring! My *M. stellata* forms, four of them are all just great masses of bloom and I think are about as large as any I've ever seen..One group of them backed by several *Rhododendron arboreum*..blood red ones about twenty feet tall is really a striking sight... When my German boy comes and I hope now that he might come next month, we shall do some re-doing of the garden and I would like to come south in the next year or so with him and see and collect Azaleas for this place. Years ago, I bought two hundred plants at some nursery in Augusta and they are all doing well, though none have had the proper care so are not as large as they should be...I recall seeing a plant of that wonderful lavender-purple one in a churchyard somewhere in Georgia or Florida that was at least fifteen feet tall and as much or more through! That is the way I want them to grow!

Now...Your letter was wonderful! Thanks! and just a bit of a further note on Meyer... Mr. George H. Johnstone, with whom I spent most of my time in Cornwall told me that he dragged a polyethelene bag that was large enough for three people to crawl into! and he filled it daily with cuttings! I think Sir Edward Bolitho finally asked him to leave Trengwainton! and Julian Williams who now has Caerhays Castle told me he could not have possibly cared for half

the things he took from there! Lord! How I pray, that one day I shall have the opportunity to be in those gardens at the proper time to collect...even seed! Just think of all the Magnolia seed that no one ever even tries to collect! To say nothing of having scions of some of those wonderful forms! They must be collected and no one there can afford to, or will do it! Yet I have been told countless times that I can have anything I want...if I only will collect it! I guess I did not impress young Julian too much or too well. He is a strange one and it will take time and more than one visit to Caerhays. But given time, I could, I know get Philip Tregonan the head gardener there, now to do some collecting for me...This was my first visit there, you know. I had corresponded for years with Mr. Charles Williams and Mrs. Charles Williams, who has a place down just out of Penzance now...but she was in Scotland when I was there...Julian is studying to be an 'eccentric English Gentleman' and he will make it and make Sir Edward Bolitho and Michael Williams look like staid old country squires! Really I love them all! I had a marvelous time and everyone treated me wonderfully well, I have seldom felt more at home anywhere than I did in most of those old houses. Mr. Simmonds the Secretary of the R.H.S. and also Mr. Synge just bent over backwards to be nice to me, both took me to lunch and I had tea with them several times...They do not often talk about other people but they certainly do NOT like a great many of our countrymen! I was shocked to hear of the way some have acted in various gardens and houses over there. People who certainly should know better, too. I am happy that they too seem to like me and I feel that this is so because I have had such wonderful letters asking me back and in so many instances to stay at their homes. I had a wonderful trip all planned to start next week, but I am using some sense for a change and will stay home and work! In a way it is a shame, for probably some of those men will not live until the time I shall be able to go back again. Mr. Johnstone, who is I believe one of the grandest men I have ever had the pleasure of knowing is not well and his physical condition certainly far from good and I do love Trewithen so very much!

What I want most to do however is to see that some of the fine Rhododendron forms get into this country! Certainly our Department of Agriculture is doing all in their power to keep them out....It is though the stand of the A.A.N. that is actually doing it, I think. I am certainly not above a smuggling job in this! The fumigation and two year post quarantine business makes it almost prohibitive! Mr. Donald Graham of Seattle imported from Rothschild last year about thirty wonderful Rhodos...had them specially packed and taken to the London Airport and flown polar route to Seattle.....fumigation killed every one of them! It must have cost him a fortune and then not to have one single plant out of it! He was furious!

The man at Longwood is Russel Seibert(?) He was at Los Angeles County and State Arboretum just prior to going to Longwood but I did not meet him. Also, just watch who they send down to Peru and Chile when they get to that area! I bet they do not bring back one single thing that should be brought out! I am trying to collect all of the NOTHOFAGUS but where???? and here let me ask you one! I simply MUST have STEWARTIA OVATA AND OVATA GRANDIFLORA..can you put me onto them? You know our P.I. group could do a lot of digging up right here at home! There seems to me to be also a GORDONIA native to the south that I want..altimaha? or is that also Franklinia? anyway I know there is one that just is never found in the trade. St. Mary's lists it but never has it...just as Kohanke used to list Stewartia ovata grandiflora and always be 'just out'!

Here something is going to have to be done! IF, I can only get my 'crew' together and working things may work out...my one time partner will arrive this next week and I am going to do my best to get him to come back to stay...he owns part of this land and certainly can handle all of my correspondence....I cannot! I have letters around here stacked high dating back over a year...I would love to answer them but they all just mean more and more time and I'd rather write these long rambling letters to someone like you...who probably wished to God I'd not! What I'm getting at is, I have hundreds..practically thousands of seedling hybrid Camellias coming on and that alone is going to take the time of one man...yet among them are undoubtedly going to be some spectacular things and there are so many definite breaks that no one else has that I just cannot let them go. The German chap, if he is half so good as I hope will be a godsend, to me. Do you know Mr. G. Krussmann? Director of Botanic Gardens in Dortmund, Germany? He is the one who selected Carl for me...I am also going to miss the International Dendrology Tour of Southern Ireland! and that just breaks my heart! For I had secret ideas about seeing to a fine collection of conifers from there even if it be only seed.

Actually, I have no qualms about the plants from English gardens getting 'out' just as long as it is not I who do it! If they are collected for such a place as Longwood or another 'private' place...even some of the Arboretums or Botanic gardens in this country...for I have never been questioned about giving plants to these places. Mr. Johnstone in fact was pleased when I started passing out plants of *Magnolia nitida*...in fact I now do not have a plant for myself! The largest one I finally gave to the Botanic Garden in Golden Gate Park. but I notice it still has my name on it! and I might get it back, if they have been successful in propagating it. I have disposed of nearly all of the things that I think might get killed in case we have a really bad winter, which could happen.

Do you think you could grow *LAPAGERIA ROSEA* down there? I have a wonderful collection of them and am shipping small plants of each form I have (about fifteen) to a nurseryman friend in England for him to grow and exhibit at one of the shows at Vincent Square. Mr. Syngue was most interested in them. I have now third generation white forms, recrossing with the very finest white forms, until now I have flowers nearly five inches long! I also have some that have the most wonderful pale pink flush, sort of 'inside'...ones with deep red bands around edge of petals, several various color forms and some with wonderful 'netting' of color. This year the *Philasia magellanica* will flower and I hope to get the cross...as *Philageria veitchii* only with several of my forms...Anyway I have hundreds of seedlings all of which should be very good if you'd like to try one?

To end this....I had something in mind when I started but seem to have lost it en-route! anyway...this too is a bachelor establishment...only I at present run it alone...and believe me! It is a mess! I come in only to eat and sleep and when the weather is good, I do not take much time to even attempt to clean up! Books--tape recorder...my friend Roy Lundholm makes tapes for me to keep me up with things! I play them as I write or eat or read...which I do not have nearly enough time to do...records and papers everywhere and me in the middle! Carl, has asked if he can have a dog...and I have agreed, so long as it is a small one and he wants a *Dachshund*....I have always had Cairns....My other chap, if he comes, will come next month when he gets out of the Navy....is a worker, who loves machinery and the running of it and also a hunter and fisherman...so if I can get all three of them here and get them working we may manage to work something out of what is now pure Chaos! I feel that Carl loves plants as I do, Roy understands enough, so that with a minimum of help from me he writes intelligent letters regarding them..and Mike is interested enough to know how to prepare land for planting and is also interested in clearing out some of the woodland...that will be logging! but we can certainly sell the timber. So, if I can keep harmony we will have a garden one day!

To quote Carl, who worked a year (1957) for Hillier and visited Bodnant...*"Bodnant is the most beautiful garden I have ever seen! But wait until we have 'our' garden!"* So, you see I do have hopes! He also, since he is much younger than I, when I told him, I hoped to see this place really develop into a good garden, answered that for me not to worry, when I get to be one hundred years old, he will take me about the garden in ~~XXXXXX~~ Rollstuhl! So he also has a sense of humor which most of them lack!

Do you know Hillier? Do you know Sealey at Kew? anyway..Sealey has stoutly maintained that *Camellia reticulata* and *C. japonica* cannot be crossed....well Hillier produced *Barbara Hillier* did not know parents..called it *C. williamsii* then changed his mind and finally Sealey this past winter decided it was *reticulata* X *japonica*! calling it *heterophylla* (not sure of this) BUT....in my greenhouse I have right next to it a plant that I DO KNOW THE PARENTS OF! it is one of my *C. saluenensis* X *C. reticulata* 'Langlois'...these two are identical in leaf and flower excepting for flower color...they open alike develop alike and are same size, shape and all! I am positive that each have same parentage, ie, *saluenensis* X *reticulata*..I want the chromosomes of each counted and I cannot find anyone to do it...but I secretly would like to prove my point! Because I also have several cultivars here that are definitely *reticulata* X *japonica*....they do not in any way resemble *Barbara Hillier*! Which to my mind should not even have been named! I graft onto better things!

is just plain difficult!
Success - Dan

Anglois, Oregon
14th April, 1959

Dear Ben:

Have the Magnolias arrived? Frankly I am a bit upset about 'my friend' in Tyler! He told me weeks ago that he had sent scions of Camellias to some friends of mine in England but had not heard from them....so he was re-shipping the entire lot! My English friends tell me that to date nothing has shown up, so I feel sure he has not shipped them at all! Weeks ago he said he has shipped me some things and finally yesterday they did arrive, so I know they were not sent until last week. However if he has not sent you the Magnolias at this point, it will not be possible to ship them as the leaves will be too far advanced. Please let me know immediately, as I can re-ship from here to you and I will simply bill him for the ones sent ~~xxxx~~ there.

Things here have been in a terrific uproar and will continue to be for some time I fear. I have flats of assorted Rhododendron species that simply must get transplanted, I am still getting scions of quite rare or new Camellias from as far off as Australia and New Zealand and some more came in from England yesterday, so grafting is still being done. Nearly everything on the place must be repotted.....I hope one day to get much of this stuff into the ground! I am also taking cuttings of many things and the weather has been terrible....wind and more wind, so watering has to be done too!

I certainly hope that all of my prospective 'helpers' do not fail me! One is due in two or three weeks, another about June 15th and a third from Germany in August, after that IF the other two do show up, we shall really start getting this place in order and going.

I have had almost fantastic luck in getting new hybrid Camellia scions and have nearly all that have ever had any notice at all, plus a great many that are more or less unknown. I am at a loss to know just how to introduce new hybrids originating here. For one thing several nurseries I know are calling things names they should not! The Longwood foundation has put up a rather large sum to go into this and see that Camellias do get straightened out but it will do no good if supposedly reputable firms continue to call a plant by just any name! I am referring to some of the new *C. williamsii* cultivars. Anyway, I became acquainted with a young nurseryman in England. Met him at the Chelsea Show, he has a small nursery in Sussex and so I am sending to him all of my new things and he will show them at the forthcoming shows, me as originator and he as grower. Since truthfully, most of my hybrids are so far superior to practically all that have come from England, I know they will receive awards of some sort, plus publicity. If I show them in American shows, it seems almost regardless of where they are, unless the grower is well known, nothing is ever done about it and no one hears of them. I must find out more about registering names too. It is all so very complicated and I have hundreds and hundreds of really exceptional crosses flowering each year. I am quite critical with them and if they do not look really good, I use them as understocks, some I give a second chance and let them go over one more year.

Well, it is the following day and your letter here saying that the plants from Dark had arrived. I still wonder about the scions to England however! I did have a very bad case of Flu but just after fighting it for about three days...went to bed and stayed there!

now to answer a few things from your letter:----As to Camellia seed, I only want such seed to grow plants for understocks...Sasanqua or japonica, I feel best for this, though I will also plant the *fraterna* as it might be good for some of the other species.

Langlois, Oregon
17th July, 1959

Dear Ben:

Think it is some time since I wrote....Have been very busy and will continue to be so for some time. Propagation now keeps me working long hours and actually I am lazy and should work even more than I do. My new boy is turning out to be a gem and I look forward to the coming of my German chap next month....I am sneaking away from here for at least a week to show him about San Francisco before bringing him home. Want him to see some of the larger American Nurseries and the way things are done here....though I hope to use the ways that he has been taught in Germany for when I was there I felt that things were being done in a better manner than we do them here.

I was in San Francisco a couple weeks ago and while there ran into Elizabeth McClintock, who is botanist or something for Golden Gate Park or California Academy of Science..anyway a Phd. and definitely stuffy....it was she who wrote the article on Michellia. She is now doing one on Magnolia delavayi which you will probably get soon! Actually she does not know too much excepting what she reads. and I do not think she always reads the proper things about plants! I am certain that she learned quite a bit from me on that particular Magnolia and I hope to send you one next year...it is really lovely. The flowers are not long lasting, opening about seven P.M. and are gone in the morning but lovely while they do last. It's foliage is magnificent!

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

I am a dreadful writer, but I think (?) that PHILESTA MAGELLANICA is flowering here for about the first time in America. I know that I have supplied several botanic gardens with plants, much to the detriment of mine, so now I have decided to let mine grow and flower. My plant is not so very large but it, now that it is really being let alone, growing faster than I had thought possible. Fine shoots coming up all about the plant. Would an article on this be worth while and acceptable? and if so how much should or could be said about me and this garden?

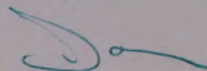
Have you learned any more about the Stewartia ovata grandiflora? I have here two, not very large plants of S. malachodendron, neither of which seem too happy but I am transplanting them to an area where they should do. All of this group can be grown from cuttings but they resent shifting from the bench to pots....in England they pot up the cuttings and even then loose many. However with mist propagation I feel that I will be able to supply them.

I definitely feel that there should be some effort made to further the interest of some of the very fine American native plants...I can give a really good list, very few of which are in the trade and then only in extremely small quantities.

Hope to have some good new Magnolias for you this next year. I am getting a fine bunch of them in from England. Actually have a few good plants of Mr. Johnston's dark form of Sargentiana robusta here now--grown from seed however and these things do vary.

Will not take up more of your time now....but do like to keep in touch.

as always sincerely,



Langlois, Oregon
13 November, 1961

Dear Ben:

I do not know anyone who gets themselves to darned involved as I do! Weather here perfect and I am trying to get so many things done outside for I know that one of these days this area will realize that it IS Oregon and then it will rain...and RAIN!

I have somewhere a letter started to you...but Saturday a friend had trouble with his car so I drove him out to Eugene to borrow a car from another friend of his and mine...the chap who compiled all the data on LAPAGERIA....he said, he had 'hoped' that I would have brought all these papers back to him! He eventually plans for me to have them to keep along with some color reproductions he had got....so...if you are finished with the lot of it, please may I have it back? I told him it was all here....I am such a darn liar! and that I'D either mail it to him or bring it up when Ken and I go back with his car.

Some new Camellia seedlings now flowering and some of them really fine...IF..I could only show them where they could be seen by people who are interested in buying Camellias!

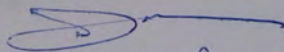
Had a fine letter from Julian Williams of Caerhays Castle and have written off asking for ~~assort~~ of various scions and seed of Magnolias and if they come...your name will be on the list.....He wants Camellia scions and plants from here....want anything from there???

Now as usual I must dah to get to P.O. ere the mail leaves/////...

will honestly get off a decent letter in next day or so.....Heard of a YELLOW CAMELLIA! I am having it checked! it is in the garden of a Chinese Poet in Taiwan and I know a chap whose father is a general or something in Nationalist Chinese Army and they live there...his mother very keen on plants and Camellias especially so He is having her go see if it is possible.....I HOPE!

as always...

sincerely...



I still do not know what the
\$50⁰⁰

was for!!!
Please...

from Harry Ker

Saturday....

LORD:

I do not know how it happened! I hope that you only get one package! For the other which was intended for you turned up at another address! It will be forwarded on to you immediately! In case you did get the other one containing some Camellia species it goes to...

Mr. Robert L. Dark, Jr.
208 Lindsey Lane,
Tyler, Texas.

This has never happened before! I was late in getting them to the Post office and so grabbed some labels and did it there. Fortunately there were only three packages that day or goodness knows where they might have gone! Mr. Dark was completely 'in the dark' about what he got but being a good gardener patted them up to await hearing from me. He is a collector of Camellias and I send him many things from time to time. I have written him asking him to please forward them on to you.

One of these days I am going to get south again and I shall come see you. There are dozens of things I'd like to ask you, and am going to ask a couple here and now, only please do not mention my name regarding what I say, please!

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

As you know the Longwood Gardens are putting up money for plant Introduction and ~~some~~ the U.S.D.A. is selecting men to make expeditions to various places for collecting good things. Well, now I mention names! Fred Meyer, wrote a year or so ago asking where he could find good garden plants in Portugal, Spain, southern France and Italy....I told him what I knew and let it go at that....when he returned he wrote me asking why I had not told him of some of the English Gardens, that everyone there knew me. I answered that he had not asked me, and in same letter asked if he had got certain things from certain gardens....he had not! Well, at that time I did not know I was going ever myself, and when I did get there, every place I went I was asked, 'Who is Dr. Meyer'. Since I have never met him I said I did not know but that he was connected with the U.S.D.A. and asked Why? In all instances I was told the same thing....he had gone about the gardens taking cuttings of EVERYTHING! So, they naturally did not tell him of the 'good' things and he did not get them! This is a pity! There are various forms of many things in most of the gardens there, as you know, which are the finest. We should have these in our gardens...Now, he or anyone they send that they do not know will never get them! You, as one of the vice Presidents of the R.H.S. knew the attitude of most of the British garden owners. To begin with they do not want some of the plants they have in commercial places....They would however be happy I am certain to have these things on display at Longwood. I have some of them here and I can get I believe all of them if I were to be ever there at proper time. I know that I have many plants in my garden only because I have promised never to let them out of this garden...There are as you know very fine forms of nearly everything and it is these we need and want in our gardens here. At Hillier's and at Edinburgh Botanic Gardens I saw benches filled with plants that were being grown and established in sterile Peat to be shipped to the U.S.D.A. Plant Introduction Dept. Nine tenths of these plants are already well established here! I get the lists from the department on these new things and already they are listing both *C. saluenensis* and *C. reticulata* from Caerhays Castle....I have had these from there since 1951! and furthermore the ones I have are the 'selected' forms, not just seedlings! Mr.

Charles Williams sent me practically anything I wanted from there as does Mr. George H. Johnston

at Trewithen, Mr. Michael Williams at Lanarth, Sir Edward Belithe at Trengwainton and Puddle from Bodnant....Anything I want from Edinburgh I get, the same for Bew, Wisley and Windsor Great Park.

New, I do not have a Phd. but I KNOW plants...good ones that is! We have already spent money to send someone over there and we have not get the really fine things! I am peer, believe me, I am peer! I was sent over last year by the Centennial Commission of the state of Oregon or I'd not have gone. I wanted to go this year and think I could have managed it but for the fact that I'd not be able to have proper people look after this place and I lost far too much last year. However this is not the proper time to get these good things. When that time does come, things here are not much better to care for and I can get someone to do it. I am a member of the International Dendrolog Union and hoped to make the tour of Southern Irish Gardens with them but now I know I cannot do it. There are some of the very finest things in these gardens and they were not to my knowledge even visited! Again I have many friends there and can get things. I constantly bring new things here, plants that are not in American gardens or nurseries...yet I get not the slightest encouragement from the U.S.D.A. or the Plant Quarantine Service ...in fact the latter seem to enjoy destroying the finest things! 3 DAPHNE TANGUTICA just arrived...DEAD! all other plants in shipment in fine condition...and incidently plants sent first class Air Mail do not even get looked at! This is something to know!

New...do you think that there is any chance at all of sending someone like me over to really get the good things? If so how on earth can it be gone about? As you know most of the owners of these gardens are old, the gardens are understaffed and no one there has time to really go out and get and ship these things. Someone they trust must do it and since I have been a guest in most of these houses for several days I know I can have them.

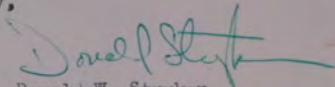
It is something to think about for in instances like Trewithen, who knows what will happen to the garden should Mr. Jehnstene die? He also thinks of this and that is why I have here nearly all of the best things...but there are so very many others there and in all of these gardens...many of them 'only' plants of a variety, specie or even genera! Many gardens have already been destroyed! Look what happened to Quarry Wood when Mr. Bentley died! Miss Field practically cried to see them just cutting and tearing out the fine things they had collected over a period of years....

After this fall I shall have one of the finest propagators in the world here. I hate like the very devil to run a nursery....I know how you feel! I love plants and I actually hate to sell them but one must make some sort of a living! Here it all just goes back into more plants! One day this will be one of the finest Botanic Gardens in this country. I have now a young man, possibly two of them, who will inherit the place and will be equally interested in the plants here and will perpetuate it.

Have you any suggestions?

this is a lot to ask' but I knew of no one else to whom I could say these things. I am not belittling Dr. Meyer; he just does not know what to look for and where to look for it!

Very sincerely,


Donald W. Stryker

Langlois...26th Sept.

Dear Ben:

The last Gardeners Forum, at hand.....I am sending you plant of STAUNTONIA HEXAPHYLLA... IF YOU WANT (pardon the caps!) HOLBOELLIA LATIFOLIA, too, I have it....since it seemed to always get mixed up with Stauntonia...I got it too! Plants do very well here, in fact I am going to have to remove one which is doing far too well and trying to engulf the house! Pilostegia viburnioides, was also once here and might still be someplace in the woodland..no plants in or near nursery and since I have grown many various things and in all the mad business of being here and not being here in the past, so many of the really nice ones are now missing.

Photographs of the LAPAGERIA were brought to me a couple days ago. Tomorrow I take them to a photographer to see if black and whites can be made from them...at any rate I shall send off to you in the next few days these color slides 2 1/4 X 2 1/4...they are not really what I had hoped for but are lovely none the less.

I am here going to list a few things I'd like to see mentioned and I shall endeavor to do something about it!...500 words..or less?

I have also been working with various EUCALYPTUS all plants grown from seed sent to me by the chief forester in Tasmania, and all seed collected from plants that have withstood zero weather, some below that! Some of them are flowering here already...none however that are particularly conspicuous for the flowers. This is I shall admit, a very wonderful area in which to grow plants...but at the moment I fear a hell of a cold winter and I might not, come next spring be so darned optimistic! It has gone down quite close to zero here I understand...but not for about thirty years.

Damn! I wish you had all of the articles on LAPAGERIA that I have here! This friend of mine at the Library at University of Oregon, has had photostatic copies made of just about everything from Ruiz et Pavon to present date...especially from the period 1847 to about 1910 great sheaf of papers..and now I understand he has had copies made of all of the decent illustrations, to and including two from Botanical Magazine one a white and the other rosea, these to be made into slides for me! Anyway if you had these papers you could do a really fine thing on the plant...as it is I am only doing what I know about them as grown here, with but a few mentions of exceptional features out of the past.

"ow I must back to work!

here's the list of plants I grow that might be of interest to others pick out those you think will do for the FORUM.

BERBERIDOPSIS CORALLINA
DIEREMA (I have several forms including Mr. Slingers' of Sleeve Donard Nursery No. Ireland)
DESFONTAINEA SPINOSA
EMBOTHRIUM COCCINEUM var. LONGIFOLIUM
CRINODENDRON HOOKERIANUM (Tricuspidaria lanceolata)
MITRAREA COCCINEA
PHILESIA MAGELANICA
SCHIZANDRA RUBRIFLORA

There are others, too!

my best always.....

D

revised
12/12/51

Mr

Hybrids

Langlois..12th October

Dear Ben.....

I certainly did that in a hurry! When I wrote you the note today, I intended sending the copies and etc. off tomorrow...then I thought 'wot the 'elli' If Ben is going to go over ALL of it, why change it here and now...so found a huge envelope and crammed it all in and dashed for the post office, where the mail truck was just coming in...but the postmaster is a 'lady' and a friend of mine so the mail was held up for a couple minutes while we dickered over the cost of sending in Air Mail....and she won! I thought rates were 7¢ per ounce regardless of weight...but it seems that all over 8 oz. go under different rates...so instead of 1.15 or whatever it was...it was what is on package...I think 80¢ so good for the post office department.

Now, ~~about~~ the copies sent off to you of articles on LAPAGERIA are we think just about everything published since 1847, in English and you will note that there are also some German ones. and the photographs will come to you just as soon as I get some copies back from print shop. They were to have been back last Saturday...but I go to Coos Bay tomorrow and will check and think they should be there by now certainly. Thus, I shall send them off on Saturday.

Now...since you are being so very wonderful about checking and practically re-doing (aren't you?) this entire deal---what do you think about the possibilities of getting such a one into the R.H.S. Journal? Darnit, I do wish I was a good photographer of flowers! There are some of the most lovely white Lapagerias in flower now..and also several very good very large rose to red ones...the soft pale pink will be in flower again soon and so will the white that is 'shot' with red and edged with red on all petals...I will certainly see to it that all of these really good forms are well taken care of from this point on and next year hope to be able to send a great box of the flowers in sprays, to one of the fortnightly shows. Then someone like Downward or Patrick Synge can take the pictures over there.

I sent off to Dr. Fletcher the tip of a PICEA BREWERIANA, just full of cones and also a small branch of another tree, the cones on it were a lovely purple-brown, while the tip's cones were a brow-yellow..so he could see the variance in color forms..thesetrees, if you have not seen one in full 'cone' are fabulously lovely and to see almost a forest of them is a sight. I ship him seed of ths tree nearly every year...do not know what they do with it all but he loves to get it and I in return get some wonderful seed of other things..this year I shall ask for specific Rhododendrons.

I am definitely going to have to do something very 'commercial' here! This place is not making any money and frankly I need some money! Propagation of the Actinidia chinensis is not going off as well as I had hoped...I find that, at least with Actinidia kolomikta, I must have a bit of grown (new) on the plants after they have struck roots, or else only a very small portion of them will survive the first winter..roots just seem to rot off. Thought with this lot, I shall see that they are kept definitely on the dry side until warmer weather in the spring.

Unfortunately so many of the things I do have in fair quantity are things that probably will not do well in most a reas. Crinodendron hookerianum, Berberidopsis corallina, Eucryphia in variety...Mitraria coccinea, Desfontainia spinosa, Grevillea rosmarinifolia, Daphne blagayana, D. collina..

I think next year I shall mass produce some of the Camellias ~~that~~ I like and do some advertising and sell them for very little..that is well under 2.00 things like CORNISH SNOW; most of the WILLIAMSII group including some of the very fine seedlings developed here.

I could also include many of the species....and most of these are selling for 7.50 here on the coast and (this I know!) all are most inferior to the ones I have here! My *C. saluenensis* cultivars and also my *C. reticulata* (wild form) cultivars have all been awarded either A.M.s or F.C.C.s by R.H.S. I have great plants of *fraterna*; *cuspidata*; *rosea*; *pitardii*; *taliensis* and several forms of *sinensis* and there are one or two others that I could probably get a dozen or so from.

This is all just ranting but unless something does turn out respectably financially I shall be forced into something else!

A friend was in who works with a big fertilizer outfit in Portland..he goes about talking to groups and etc. Does a good job, too and is interested in plants. Does a lot of 'plugging' for me and now wants me to come into Portland and go over some things with him. All of this is a bit out of my line but if there is money in it to see me through this next winter....I shall probably go through with it...at least I shall get paid.

Now have ranted enough///will get something short off to you very soon...a promise.

as always,

sincerely---

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GARDEN OF THE NATIONS

The International Garden of Tomorrow

NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

EIGHT-HUNDRED SOUTHWEST FRONT AVENUE

PORTLAND, OREGON

Langlois...^{May} 8th

Dear Ben:

Have been up to my neck, as usual and have just written nothing to anyone... My guy has at last come and we shall soon settle down to real work, as it is we have done a hell of a lot and it only remains for him to get used to my screwy ways of doing things and also my hellish disposition... and my actual confusion as to what must be done first. It will work out and things will soon run smooth... then of course my German guy will come and we shall have to do it all over again! However next month my old partner will come home and he seems to have a knack of keeping things going smoothly and settling difficulties that I seem to constantly cause!

I am at least not alone any more and that is one wonderful thing, especially at mealtime! Mike is only 20 but is a wonderful worker and knows machinery and also electricity, plus being one of the nicest chaps I have ever had about the place. Already things begin to look more orderly.

Now... this is one of my 'ulterior motive' letters. I simply MUST find at least one plant of STEWARTIA OVATA GRANDIFLORA! Do you think that with your great acquaintance with plants people you can locate one for me? I have all of the other ones and had had this but when I was gone last year it died or was killed! Mr. Homan (?) who has a nursery somewhere in Maryland I think has it but he does not answer my letters. I shall do almost anything to acquire this plant!

Here things are really making a display, mostly now Rhododendrons but Camellias are still in flower and some of my favorite Chilean things now starting... Embotriums, Tricuspidarias, Grevilleas rosemarinifolia (not a Chilean!) and others... Clematis draped from everything! and some of the species like C. macropetala; florida var sieboldii, Cirrhosa (sp?), the late forms of armandi which I have raised from seed and which are delightful pink and one a delicate lavender and a fine larger flowered white.. these are huge and grow way up into the taller trees... chrysocoma is also a honey and far exceeds in beauty the montana forms.... Daphne scents everything though some of the fragrant Rhodos also help and it is kind of nice and gratifying!

I am going to have to stop this and get to work... but I really am serious about trying to locate this Stewartia! Can you help????

I shall certainly send along one of the Davidias this next fall or winter.... I have hundreds of them and some now in flower.... They too are wonderful and only by showing them can I sell them!

Glad you finally got the Magnolias from Tyler..... I really like Bob very much but fear he did not send off to England some scions that he told me he had and which I had promised to such people as George Johnstone and Col. Bolitho.. had I known he was not shipping I'd have sent things from here! As it is they saved stocks until too late to graft other things on them! and it puts me in a spot!

Now.... best of everything to you.

as always... 